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Miss VIRGINIA COWPER, visit to  
ALIAS SMITH COWPER

1934

O. OSTOYA, MRS OSTOYA

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
File No. 2. B. REGISTRY.

Special Branch

REPORT

Date

Subject (in full)..... Miss Virginia Cowper, visit to.

Made by..... D.S. Pitts.

Forwarded by.....

*Shu S.I.*

In compliance with the instructions of the Officer i/c Special Branch appearing on the attached memorandum, I have to report that Miss Virginia Cowper was interviewed on July 31, 1934 regarding the information that she had to divulge to the Police.

Actually she had no information to impart that would be of use to this section, and the reason she solicited the assistance of the Police was to seek advice as to what course she should adopt regarding a Russian artist named O. Ostoya and his wife Mrs. M. Ostoya, to whom she (Miss Cowper) had handed a crossed cheque for \$65.00 on the American-Oriental Bank as payment for a certain painting. Apparently neither Ostoya nor Mrs. Ostoya having banking accounts, they are experiencing difficulties in cashing the cheque, with the result that the artist and his wife accompanied by a "big, hulking, brute of a man," have been to see Miss Cowper several times, requesting in a threatening manner that the cheque be withdrawn and cash issued instead. Miss Cowper alleges that the third Russian (as mentioned above) has threatened to do her injury, and since he is always coming in to her shop, her business is suffering considerably.

She was advised that whilst the Police have no interest in her business transactions with other persons, they being entirely civil matters, she was at liberty to request assistance from Central Station should any of the above mentioned persons return to her shop creating disturbances, abusing or threatening her.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

D. S.

*Why not ask?*

*File  
JR*

*Dr. Pitts.*

J. A. COOK

Superintendent  
J. Robertson

52  
Please send

a man  
round.

TH

My friend - Miss Virginia  
Corper - Lascron Home,  
who accepts bookings by  
aviation lines, has just  
phoned me requesting me  
to come round as she has  
some communication to  
make to the Police regarding  
some Russians. Can  
some one be sent from  
Dr Ross' section?

30/7/34 D.S. P.M.  
O.R.

J.A.C.

# SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

File No. D. 57.  
( I. O. )  
Central Station,

## REPORT

Date Feb 25th. 1929.

Subject (in full) Supposed Fraudulent Attempt to Collect Rent , 10, Nanking Road.

Made by D. S. I. Tinkler.

Forwarded by Delway C.

A full report on this case has been forwarded on Crime Report. C. 1564.

Virginia Cowper is an American lady who was formerly employed at the American-Chinese Book Store, 25, Nanking Road. She resides at the Astor House Hotel and her real name is Virginia Smith-Cowper, the other name being used for her business only. She is well known and respected in the American Community.

D. S. I.

Supt. B. Division.

W.K.

A. C. P. ( Crime ).

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE	
C. I. D. REGISTRY	
No. I. O. D.	57
Date	23 2/ 19

February 23rd 9

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 21 addressed to the Commissioner of Police regarding two unauthorized foreigners entering No. 10 Hanking Road and demanding payment of rent from the tenant Miss Virginia Cowper and to inform you that the matter is receiving attention.

Yours faithfully,



Acting Director of Criminal Investigation.

J.S. Potter Esq.,

Messrs Asia Realty Company,

Shanghai.

# ASIA REALTY COMPANY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
15 NASSAU ROAD, TEL. 68823

CABLE ADDRESS—ASIA REALTY

P. O. BOX 123

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
C. I. D. REGISTRY  
No. I. O. D. 37  
Date 2.1.29  
ALL COPIES

REFERENCE R/T-52

SHANGHAI February 21, 1929

Commissioner of Police,  
Shanghai Municipal Council,  
Local.

Dear Sir:

We are writing to report to you an occurrence which our tenant, Miss Virginia Cowper at No. 10 Nanking Road, has reported to this office. Yesterday, February 20, two foreigners entered her shop when she seemed to be alone and demanded payment of rent. They were insistent and quite bullying in their attitude and represented themselves as the proper agents to make the collection.

It happened that there was another party in one of the corners who had not been noticed by these two and when this party stepped out to see what was going on the two men still continued their demand, but Miss Cowper ordered them promptly to leave the premises. She did not call the police as she might have done. The men then left but stood about the front of the premises for awhile, studying the name of the shop and the number, and making such remarks as, "Yes, this is No. 10", evidently ready to show that there was some mistake in their records if they had been apprehended.

We have no means of identification, but merely report this for your information.

Yours very truly,

ASIA REALTY COMPANY,  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S.A.

J. S. Potter

JSP:K

*M.H.C. (for)  
to Det. C. who is the  
enquiries man  
refr*

*Reg. Remittance  
Trans to 5072  
22 Rfb*

*X  
Chen's  
D.S.*